

AWAY to Waterlooville. That's the draw that came out of the hat for Wycombe Wanderers in the first round of the F.A. Cup to be played on Saturday, November 20. And at first glance, the Blues would seem to have quite a task on their hands when they visit Jubilee Road.

So far this season, Waterlooville have lost only twice — both times to Weymouth in the Southern League Cup. In the Southern League Division One South, they have played only six games, winning three and drawing three.

Waterlooville's path to the first round is also impressive. They thrashed Hampshire League side Cowes (Isle of Wight) 9-0 in the first qualifying round and followed that with a 3-0 win at Swaything, a 2-1 victory at Basingstoke while on Saturday they beat Hendon.

Wycombe's fellow Isthmian League club, 4-1 at home.

It is the Hendon result that will send a few shivers down the spines of Wycombe fans. Although not as strong as usual this season, Hendon were well beaten by Waterlooville despite scoring in only the first minute through Alan Campbell.

The man behind Waterlooville's success this season is former Sheffield United and Portsmouth player David Munks, who took over as manager in the close season.

Munks has a young side at his fingertips with a couple of older players to add experience.

But it is the Hampshire side's forwards that are making the headlines this term. Leading the way is John Robson who hit a hat-trick against Hendon on Saturday. This player is reputed to be deadly inside the penalty area and recently turned down an offer from Scottish League club St Johnstone after going on a month's loan. Kim Manns and Mick Bennett are the other strikers and both have been amongst the goals regularly.

Wycombe's only recent meeting with Waterlooville came

in a friendly in July, 1972, when they went down 2-1 away, Bernie Bremer scoring the goal. Of the Blues team John Maskell, Tony Horseman, Dave Bullock and Paul Birdseye still remain while Waterlooville have three survivors from that time — defenders Alan Avery, now club captain, John Kill and Ernie Bradwell.

Despite Waterlooville's impressive results this season, Wycombe boss Ted Powell was not too disappointed with the draw.

"We are now beginning to put things together at Wycombe and I'm always confident we can do well. Waterlooville play attacking football and the conditions and pitch are excellent.

Ted should know. He was manager of Sutton United last season when they met Waterlooville in the fourth qualifying round of the cup. The teams drew 1-1 at Sutton but the replay went United's way 4-2 in front of a 3,000 crowd. Many of the Waterlooville players are still there, so Ted has a good idea of the task ahead of Wycombe.

CHESHAM CHEER!

CHESHAM United have reached the first round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in nine years. Saturday's 4-2 home win over Southern League Division One South leaders, Worcester City, now gives them a plum visit to Fourth Division Brentford.

Former Wycombe player Vince Faulkner was amongst the scorers while Stewart Atkins, Stan Marshall and Ken Beaven were also on target. Worcester, who had a player sent off, had lost once in their last 12 matches.

Another local club, Slough Town lived to fight another day at Woking on Saturday when they drew 0-0. A trip to Wimbledon is the prize in the next round.